

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
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R 181355Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9956
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

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USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, IS, XF
SUBJECT: KUWAITI PRESS EASIER ON SADAT, HUT URGES HALT IN
NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE BEGIN-SADAT ISMAILIYA SUMMIT AND THE
REPORTED LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE LAST
WEEK, SEVERAL KUWAITI EDITORIALISTS HAVE SPECULATED ON THE
PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD BE FACING BOTH SADAT AND ARAB UNITY
IF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI LINK WERE BROKEN OFF. THE
GENERAL PRESS OPINION REMAINS THAT THE TALKS ARE FRUITLESS,
WILL CONTINUE TO BE FRUITLESS IN TERMS OF A COMPREHENSIVE
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PEACE SETTLEMENT AND CAN ONLY ERODE ARAB SOLIDARITY.
AL-WATAN (JAN. 18) ASSERTED THAT, AT THIS POINT, ANY
CONCESSION OFFERED BY SADAT WOULD BE WRONG, BUT DURING
THE LAST WEEK WRITERS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED SADAT'S "COURAGE"
IN DEALING WITH THE ISRAELIS. THEY HAVE CALLED UPON
HIM TO DEMONSTRATE THE SAME COURAGE BY ANNOUNCING "THE
FAILURE OF HIS PEACE INITIATIVE" (AL-HADAF, JAN. 12 AND

AL-WABAS, JAN. 14).

2. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A NEW THREAD EMERGING IN EDITORIAL COMMENT WHICH ADVOCATES THAT ALL ARABS GET TOGETHER AND HELP SADAT GET OUT OF THE DIFFICULT SPOT HE UNFORTUNATELY GOT HIMSELF INTO. AL WABAS (JAN. 14) ASSERTED THAT "THE GROUP RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARABS" IS TO HELP EGYPT OUT OF THE CRISIS BY SHOWING SADAT THAT HE CAN "RETURN TO THE ARAB LINES WHEN HE SO DESIRES," AND AL-ANBA (JAN. 15) CALLED UPON ARAB LEADERS TO PROCEED TO CAIRO TO EXPRESS THEIR SOLIDARITY AND THUS DESTROY ISRAEL'S INTENDED "ISOLATION OF EGYPT." AL-WABAS (JAN. 15) PRAISED SYRIAN "RESTRAINT" DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS BUT, GIVEN SADAT'S DIFFICULT POSITION DUE TO HIS UNSUCCESSFUL PEACE INITIATIVE, CALLED ON PRES. ASAD TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT SADAT, IN SPITE OF HIS FAILURE, AND THUS HEAL THE SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN BREACH.

3. A COUPLE OF EDITORIALS SUGGEST HOW THE ARABS MIGHT CAPITALIZE ON THE FAILURE OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THEY EXPECT. AL-WABAS (JAN. 16) WARNED THE US THAT PRESIDENT SADAT REMAINS A MAN NOT TO BE TOYED WITH, SINCE HE COULD THEATEN ALL AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE ARAB WORLD (RECALLING THAT NASSER HAD INVITED THE SOVIETS IN AFTER A FALLING OUT WITH THE U.S.). AL-SIYASAH (JAN. 15) SAW THE LACK OF ISRAELI CONCESSIONS AS AN OPPOR-
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TUNITY FOR ALL ARABS TO EXPLOIT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE --
TO EXPOSE TO THE WORLD ISRAEL'S INTENTION "TO REMAIN
AN EXPANSIONIST STATE..."
MAESTRONE

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